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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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FOOD DISTRIBUTER SENTENCED FOR MEAT INSPECTION VIOLATIONS

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Yong N. Kim, age 36, of Owings Mills, Maryland was sentenced today by the Honorable Catherine C. Blake to 3 years probation for violations under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and ordered to pay a \$7,500 fine.

Mr. Kim is President of Maryland Cash and Carry, Inc. which distributes wholesale meat and poultry products primarily to convenience stores located in Baltimore City. A compliance officer from the United State Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Division conducted a surprise inspection of Maryland Cash and Carry, Inc. on January 29, 2002 and found numerous meat products had been gnawed on by rats and infested with rat hairs. As a result, Mr. Kim pleaded guilty to one count of offering for sale to the public adulterated meat products and one count of holding meat products in a manner causing them to become adulterated.

During his period of probation, Mr. Kim is required to certify monthly that Maryland Cash

and Carry, Inc. is in compliance with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and to maintain sanitary conditions at Maryland Cash and Carry.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ari S. Casper.